

REMARKS

The examiner requires restriction to the invention of Group I (claims 1-11), the invention of Group II (claims 12-15), or the invention of Group III (claims 16-20) for prosecution on the merits.

Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group II, claims 12-15. The election is being made with traverse.

The examiner urges that Groups I and II are distinct each from the other since the product can be made by a different process, e.g. with a non-water-based adhesive. Applicants respectfully disagree. The product of claim 12 is a product-by-process claim. As originally presented for examination, this claim depends from process claim 1. The product must be made by the process of claim 1, which requires the use of a water-based adhesive. Any examination of Group I claims must include an examination of the process of claims 1-11. Clearly the search required for Group I is required for Group II. No additional search, consideration of other hardship is seen. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement as it relates to Groups I and II is requested.

The examiner urges that the claimed product (Group II) can be made with an apparatus other than the Group III apparatus, e.g., using microwaves instead of radio waves, and that the claimed process (Group I) can be practice by another materially different apparatus, e.g., one using microwaves instead of radio waves. Applicants disagree. The process claims of Group I and the product-by-process claims of Group II require drying with radio frequency. Nevertheless, as the invention of Group I and II could arguable be conducted/made by hand (e.g.,

plies wound by hand and then passed through a radio frequency field and then cut by hand). As such, applicants do not object to the withdrawal of the Group III claims as being directed to a non-elected invention. In this regard, and in order to facilitate an early allowance, Group III claims (claims 16-20) have been canceled.

Claim 12 has been amended to place this claim in independent form.

New claims 21-25 are newly added. These claims read on elected Group II.

Early and favorable examination on the merits of claims 1-15 and claims 21-25 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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